What is claimed is:

1. A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one or more values; and

storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction.

2. The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions.

3. A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a shopper, for a correlator value; and

concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for if the selected items do not have an identical correlator value to the other possessed items.

4. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step further comprises the steps of:

searching a database of previous transactions, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the conclusion; and

concluding that any of the selected items was paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located in the step of searching the database.

5. The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the steps of:

initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current transaction, using a function computed over one or more values; and

previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of the searching step.

6. The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted.

7. The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the searching and concluding steps do not apply to the remembered items.

8. A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one or more values; and

means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction.

9. The system according to Claim 8, further comprising means for storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions.

10. A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

means for searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a shopper, for a correlator value; and

means for concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for if the selected items do not have an identical correlator value to the other possessed items.

11. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding further comprises:

means for searching a database of previous transactions, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the conclusion; and

means for concluding that any of the selected items was paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located by the means for searching the database.

12. The system according to Claim 10, further comprising:

means for initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current transaction, using a function computed over one or more values; and

means for previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of the means for searching.

13. The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted.

14. The system according to Claim 10, further comprising means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the means for searching and means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.

15. A computer program product for preparing information usable in theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction, as a function of one or more values; and

computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction.

16. The computer program product according to Claim 15, further comprising computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions.

17. A computer program product for detecting potential theft using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

computer-readable program code means for searching, in an RFID tag affixed to each or one or more items possessed by a shopper, for a correlator value; and

computer-readable program code means for concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were not paid for if the selected items do not have an identical correlator value to the other possessed items.

18. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer-readable program code means for concluding further comprises:

computer-readable program code means for searching a database of previous transactions, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of the selected items, prior to the conclusion; and

computer-readable program code means for concluding that any of the selected items was

paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located by the computer-readable program code means for searching the database.

19. The computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising:

computer-readable program code means for initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current transaction, using a function computed over one or more values; and

computer-readable program code means for previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of one or more items presented for purchase in the current transaction, prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for searching.

20. The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the computer-readable program code means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted.

21. The computer program product according to Claim 17, further comprising computer-readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program code means for searching and computer-readable program code means for concluding do not apply to the remembered items.